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Wednesday

JANUARY 9, 2013 | A PUBLICATION OF The Washington Post | NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS, LIFESTYLES | **FREE DAILY**

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eye openers

ACCOUTREMENT

Man Thankful He Paid Extra For Tequila Holster in Belt

Los Angeles authorities said a tipsy tree trimmer dangled for nearly two hours 40 feet up in a eucalyptus tree and it took 27 firefighters to rescue him. The man, whose name was not released, apparently had lost his footing Monday and was dangling from a strap around his chest and arms. A half-full bottle of tequila was found in his belt. (AP)

BUDGETS

"I was surprised they sent so many firemen for a squirrel."

— **EMILY SHARMAN,** ON HEARING THAT WATFORD, ENGLAND, SENT THREE FIRE ENGINES AND SEVEN FIREFIGHTERS TO RESCUE A SQUIRREL THAT BECAME TRAPPED ON AN ISLAND IN A POND, THE U.K. WEBSITE ORANGE NEWS REPORTED TUESDAY

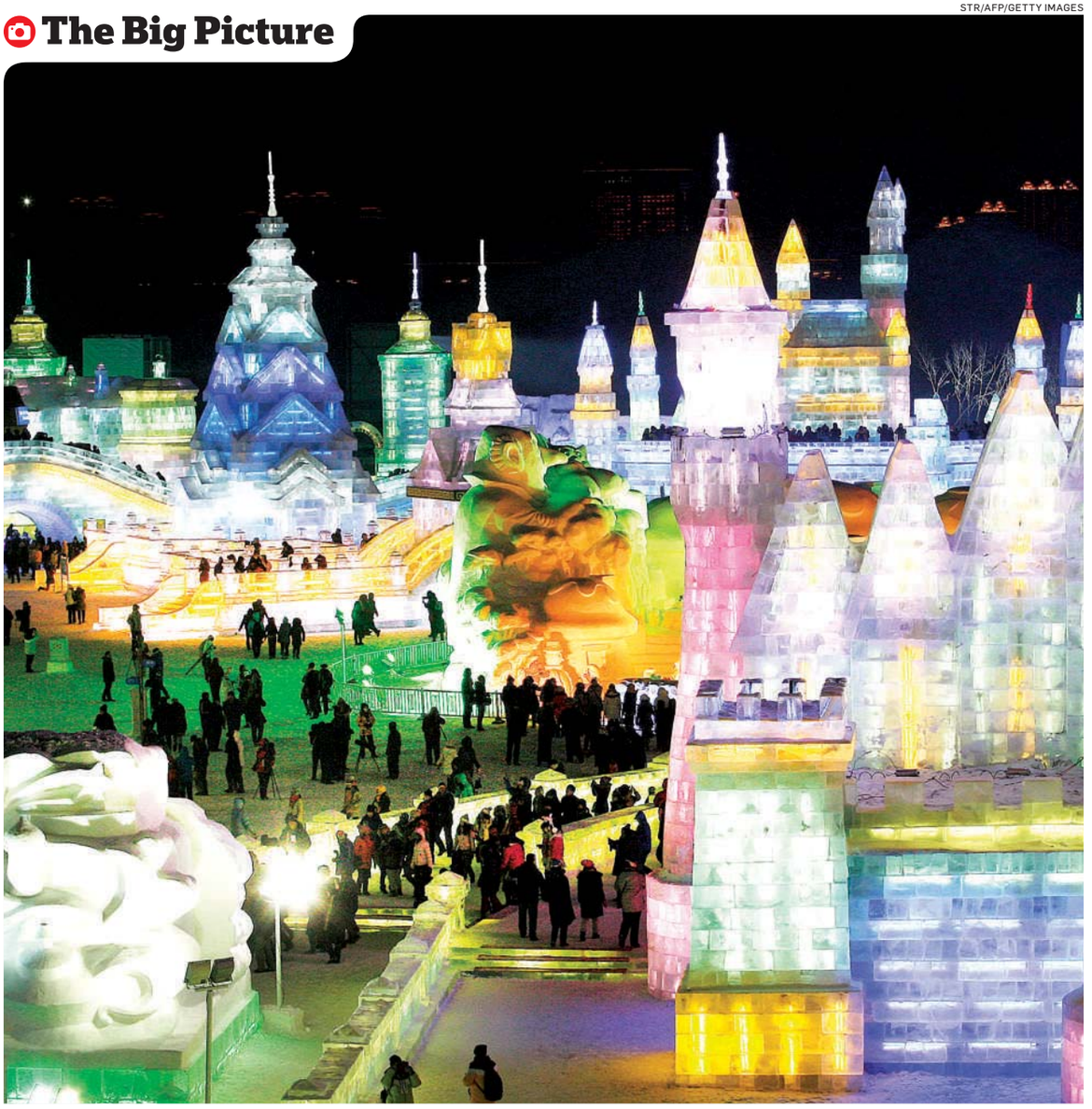
REMOVALS

Exiled Mole King Now Hiding Under the House Next Door

A heating repairman had good news and bad news for Washington state homeowner Velma Kellen. The good news: He was able to fix her heating ducts after she reported that her furnace was failing to heat the house. The bad news: Someone was living in a crawl space under the home and had diverted the heat to keep warm. Kellen said the squatter somehow fooled her three dogs into never barking at the unwanted guest. (AP)

The Big Picture

STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



ALL OF THE LIGHTS: Attendees walk around colorful ice castles Saturday in Ice and Snow World at the opening ceremony of the 2013 Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, China. This year, the exhibit features majestic ice castles and sculptures of fairy-tale characters equipped with LED lights.

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No U.S. Troops in Afghanistan Beyond 2014?

A full withdrawal after combat ends is possible, officials say

Washington

Administration officials said publicly for the first time Tuesday that the U.S. might leave no American troops in Afghanistan after the end of combat in December 2014, an option that defies the view of Pentagon officials who say thousands of U.S. troops could be needed there to keep a lid on al-Qaeda and to strengthen the Afghan army and police.

"The U.S. does not have an inherent objective of 'X' number of troops in Afghanistan," said Ben Rhodes, a White House deputy national security adviser. "We have an objective of making sure there is no safe haven for al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and making sure that the Afghan government has a security force that is sufficient to ensure the stability of the Afghan government."

Administration officials in recent days had said they were considering a range of options for a residual U.S. troop presence after 2014, from as few as 3,000 to as many as 15,000, with the number linked to a specific set of military-related missions.

Asked in a conference call with reporters whether zero was now an option, Rhodes said, "That would be an option we would consider."

MUNIR UZ ZAMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The White House is considereing pulling all U.S. forces from Afghanistan after 2014.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is scheduled to meet President Barack Obama to discuss ways of framing a partnership beyond 2014.

His statement comes just three days before Afghan President Hamid Karzai is scheduled to meet President Barack Obama at the White House to discuss ways of framing an enduring partnership beyond 2014. The two are at odds on numerous issues, including a U.S. demand that any American troops who would remain in Afghanistan after the combat mission ends be granted immunity from prosecution under Afghan laws. ROBERT BURNS (AP)

66K The number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of about 100,000 as recently as 2010, according to administration officials.

Hearsay

"The state is stronger today than it has been in years. We are recovering and growing, not declining and descending."

— **N.J. GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE,** IN HIS STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS ON TUESDAY THAT NEW JERSEY WILL BE BACK "STRONGER THAN EVER" AFTER SUPERSTORM SANDY AND WILL DO IT WITHOUT "WASTEFUL SPENDING"

Manning Given Sentencing Credit

Judge: Soldier who leaked files suffered illegal punishment

Fort Meade, Md.

An Army private suspected of sending reams of classified documents to the secret-sharing WikiLeaks website was illegally punished at a Marine Corps brig and should get 112 days cut from any prison sentence he receives if convicted, a military judge ruled Tuesday.

On the first day of a scheduled four-day hearing at Fort Meade, Army Col. Denise Lind ruled during a pretrial hearing that authorities went too far in their strict confinement of Pfc. Bradley Manning for nine months in a Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Va., in 2010 and 2011.

Backstory

Bradley Manning is accused of leaking classified Iraq and Afghanistan war logs and a 2007 video of a U.S. helicopter crew gunning down 11 men. Manning supporters consider him a whistleblower whose actions exposed war crimes and helped trigger the pro-democracy Arab Spring uprisings in late 2010. (AP)

Manning was confined to a windowless cell 23 hours a day, sometimes with no clothing. Brig officials said it was to keep him from hurting himself or others.

Lind said Manning's confinement was "more rigorous than necessary." She added that the conditions "became excessive in relation to legitimate government interests."

Manning faces 22 charges, including aiding the enemy, which carries a maximum sentence of life behind bars. His trial begins March 6. The 25-year-old intelligence analyst had sought to have the charges thrown out, arguing the conditions were egregious.

Manning showed no reaction as Lind read her decision. Jeff Paterson of the Bradley Manning Support Network, which is funding Manning's defense, said the sentencing credit "doesn't come close to compensating Bradley."

Manning has offered to take responsibility for the leaks in a pending plea offer but he still could face trial on other charges. DAVID DISHNEAU (AP)

In Brief

HARTFORD, CONN.

Conn. Gives Businesses In Newtown $500K in Aid

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy said Tuesday that Newtown is receiving $500,000 in state economic development aid for stores and other companies that lost business due to the arrival of hundreds of news reporters and others immediately after the school massacre.(AP)

CENTENNIAL, COLO.

FBI: Holmes' Booby Trap Had Improvised Napalm

An FBI bomb technician said Tuesday that the elaborate booby trap system allegedly set up by James Holmes to lure police from the July 20 theater massacre in Aurora, Colo., included improvised napalm and thermite, which burns so hot that water can't put it out. (AP)

ILLINOIS LOTTERY/AP

Urooj Khan, 46, was poisoned July 20 after collecting lottery winnings.

CHICAGO

Chicago Lottery Winner's Body to Be Exhumed

Authorities plan to exhume the body of a Chicago lottery winner poisoned with a lethal dose of cyanide as detectives move forward with a homicide investigation to find out how Urooj Khan, 46, was killed, the medical examiner said Tuesday. Khan's death on July 20 was initially ruled a result of natural causes. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Medgar Evers' Widow to Offer Obama Invocation

Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of civil rights activist Medgar Evers, who was slain in 1963, will deliver the invocation at President Barack Obama's inauguration on Jan. 21, the Presidential Inaugural Committee announced Tuesday. (AP)

Healthy adult volunteers needed

The National Institute of Mental Health is conducting outpatient research studies on fear and anxiety at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Over a period of one to three visits of one to three hours each, participants will be interviewed and complete computer tasks during which heart rate will be recorded. Volunteers must be between 18-50 years of age, medically healthy, and not be taking medication. There is no cost for study-related tests. Compensation will be provided.

For more information, please call:
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Or go online, clinicaltrials.gov

Refer to study #: 01-M-0185 or 02-M-0321

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Nation

Giffords Pushes Gun Control

Initiative launched on anniversary of Tucson shooting

Tucson, Ariz.

Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband launched a political action committee aimed at curbing gun violence Tuesday as her Arizona hometown paused to mark the second anniversary of a deadly shooting rampage that killed six and left her with severe injuries.

Tucson residents rang bells at 10:11 a.m. — the moment a mentally ill gunman opened fire on Giffords as she met with constituents in 2011, killing six people and leaving 12 others injured. Mayor Jonathan Rothschild rang a bell at a fire station 19 times — one for each victim.

Gunman Jared Lee Loughner is serving a life sentence for the crime.

Giffords also took a prominent role in the gun debate on the anniversary. She and her husband, Mark Kelly, wrote in an op-ed published in USA Today that their Americans for Responsible Solutions initiative would help raise money to support greater gun-control efforts.

MATT YORK/AP

Nick Leo visits a memorial Tuesday in Tucson, Ariz., outside the Safeway where a gunman opened fire in 2011, killing six people and injuring 12.

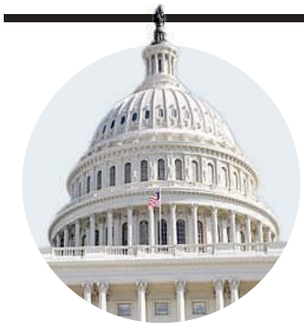
Meanwhile ...

Two politicians on opposite ends of the gun debate held dueling weapons buybacks Tuesday outside a police station in Tucson, Ariz. City Councilman Steve Kozachik asked people to turn in their guns for a $50 Safeway gift certificate. About 200 firearms were turned in. In response to the event, Republican outgoing state senator Frank Antenori organized a gathering outside the same station where about a dozen people offered cash for guns. **(AP)**

"Achieving reforms to reduce gun violence and prevent mass shootings will mean matching gun lobbyists in their reach and resources," the couple wrote in the column. They were expected to discuss the initiative in an interview airing Tuesday on ABC News.

The network offered a preview of the interview Monday and during "Good Morning America" on Tuesday. When asked by Diane Sawyer about when such violence happens to school children, Giffords responded: "Enough."

BOB CHRISTIE AND BRIAN SKOLOFF (AP)



FINDINGS

Grading Congress

A new Public Policy Polling found that Americans have a higher opinion of the band Nickelback, 39 percent to 32 percent, than they do of Congress. Cockroaches also beat lawmakers in favorability — 45 percent to 43 percent, the left-leaning group found. Some good news: Congress did win over the Ebola virus, 53 percent to 25 percent. (EXPRESS)

Brennan Confirmation Hits Snag

Washington

A Republican senator is calling for a delay in confirming President Barack Obama's pick for CIA director until the administration provides answers on the deadly Sept. 11 assault in Libya that killed a U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, whose opposition helped scuttle U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice's hopes of becoming secretary of state, said the Senate should not confirm any Obama nominee for the nation's top spy post until the administration elaborates on the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi.

John Brennan was expected to have an easier time on the path to Senate confirmation than Chuck Hagel, Obama's choice to run the Pentagon. A handful of Republicans have announced opposition to their former GOP colleague, and several skeptical Democrats reserved judgment until Hagel explains his views on Israel and Iran. DONNA CASSATA (AP)

Backstory

An independent review board released an exhaustive report last month that found "systematic failures and leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels" of the State Department that led to inadequate security at the mission in Benghazi, Libya. **(AP)**

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World

In Brief

TUNIS, TUNISIA

Judge Releases Suspect In Benghazi Attack

Tunisian authorities released one of the only men in custody for alleged links to September's attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in the Libyan city of Benghazi, the latest blow to an investigation that has limped along. Ali Harzi, 26, was one of the only people actually detained over the attack, but a judge freed him Tuesday because there was a lack of evidence. (AP)

PARIS

Hollande Details Plans To Cut State Aid, Panels

Hollande

President Francois Hollande on Tuesday said that his previously announced plan to put France's bloated government on a diet includes cutting state aid to companies. The Socialist leader also said that 100 state-backed commissions "whose usefulness is not proven" — about 15 percent of the total — will be shut this year. (AP)

LAGOS, NIGERIA

Fire Rages Through Slum

A massive fire tore through a waterfront slum in Nigeria's megacity of Lagos on Tuesday, burning down dozens of shack workshops and homes. When firefighters didn't turn up, locals tried in vain to stop the blaze with buckets of water. The blaze was the second major one in the city in recent weeks. It was unclear if anyone was injured in the inferno. (AP)

$1.7M

The estimated value of 11 gold bars confiscated by U.S. authorities in Puerto Rico. The bars were sent by mail from Curacao, though officials declined to say whether the suspected contraband came from a recent heist on the island. (AP)

Winter Wallops Syrian Refugees

Cold weather, floods in region compound misery of displaced

Zaatari, Jordan

A winter storm is magnifying the misery for tens of thousands of Syrians fleeing the country's civil war, turning a refugee camp into a muddy swamp where winds have torn down tents and exposed the residents to freezing temperatures.

Frustrated refugees at a camp in Zaatari, where about 50,000 are sheltered, attacked aid workers after the tents collapsed, said Ghazi Sarhan, a spokesman for the charity that helps run the camp.

$1B

The amount that the U.N. said last month that it needs to aid Syrians in the region. More than half a million people have fled the nation. (AP)

After three days of rain, muddy water has engulfed tents. Conditions in the Zaatari camp are "worse than living in Syria," said Fadi Suleiman, a 30-year-old refugee.

HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

A Syrian man carries his son through the flooded Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan on Tuesday in the wake of a winter storm.

Zaatari's residents are some of the more than 280,000 Syrians who fled to Jordan since the uprising against President Bashar Assad broke out in March 2011.

About a half million Syrians total have fled to nearby countries, including Turkey and Lebanon, to escape the civil war that has killed an estimated 60,000 people in nearly two years. Wintry weather has made conditions miserable for refugees in those countries as well.

"We're desperate. We need a solution fast," said Abu Bilal, a Syrian from Dara'a at the Zaatari camp.

"You tell me, is this a life? We have nothing ... and now look at us!"

— **GHALIA,** A SYRIAN WOMAN WHO FLED TO A REFUGEE CAMP IN LEBANON, SPEAKING AS WATER SEEPED INTO HER TENT

In Turkey, tragedy struck at one site as fire at a refugee camp killed two children and injured four other people, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency.

"It's a miserable situation, but I am ashamed to complain because we're much better off than our brothers trapped in Syria," said, Mohammed al-Abed, a 30-year-old Syrian in Turkey's Yayladagi camp.

"At least we are better equipped with some heaters and blankets. They have nothing, no heating, no electricity. Nothing." DALE GAVLAK (AP)

Venezuela: Chavez Too Sick for His Swearing-In

Caracas, Venezuela

President Hugo Chavez won't be able to attend his scheduled swearing-in this week, Venezuela's government announced Tuesday, confirming suspicions that the leader's illness will keep him in a Cuban hospital past the key date.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro broke the news in a letter to National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello, saying that on the recommendation of Chavez's medical team, his recovery "should be extended beyond Jan. 10" and for that reason, he won't be able to attend Thursday's scheduled inauguration.

Opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who lost to Chavez in elections three months ago, said that Chavez's current term constitutionally ends Thursday. Chavez hasn't spoken publicly in a month.

Other opposition leaders have argued that the inauguration cannot legally be put off and an interim president should take over. (AP)

Backstory

President Hugo Chavez was in a "stable situation" in Cuba despite a respiratory infection after his fourth cancer surgery, Venezuelan officials said Monday. Chavez has said that if he's unable to continue on as president, Vice President Nicolas Maduro should take his place. **(AP)**

Hearsay

"The party has absolute control over the media, and this principle is unshakable."

— **A MEMO** ISSUED TUESDAY BY CHINA'S COMMUNIST PARTY, DENOUNCING ANTI-CENSORSHIP PROTESTERS AT THE OFFICES OF A NEWSPAPER IN GUANGDONG SUBJECTED TO ITS CONTROL

Major Disconnect: Vladimir Lenin is not considered funny in Poland, a Polish mobile phone operator has discovered. Polska Telefonia Cyfrowa's use of a drawing of Lenin in the style of Soviet propaganda in poster and TV ads —with the command "Keep Talking!"— triggered a barrage of angry feedback. The company responded this week by stopping its advertising campaign. It said it never intended offense. (AP)

World

ART

It's a Steal, Really

A Henri Matisse painting stolen in 1987 from a Swedish museum by a thief wielding a sledgehammer has been recovered, an art specialist and a dealer said Tuesday. "Le Jardin" was found when a British dealer checked the work against a database before a planned sale. The 1920 painting, valued at about $1 million, will be returned to Stockholm's Moderna Museet, officials said. (AP)

Guatemala Develops a Private Urban Haven

Guatemala City

The highway climbs toward the edge of Guatemala City, past deep ravines where the poorest residents live in huts roofed with plastic and powered by stolen electricity.

Seven miles south of the historic center, the road comes to a set of towering white stucco walls and cast-iron gates that shelter apartment buildings and storefronts.

Guatemalan developers are building a nearly independent city near a capital marred by crime and snarled by traffic. At its heart is Paseo Cayala, with apartments, boutiques and restaurants.

Builders call it a development for Guatemalans of a variety of incomes, though so far the cheapest apartments cost about 70 times the average Guatemalan's yearly wage. Planners hope to expand it into "Cayala City," a little larger than New York's Central Park.

Though the country's wealthy have traditionally flocked to estates and haciendas outside the capital, Cayala City's aim is to transform the way Guatemalans perceive city living, targeting a younger generation that enjoys a more cosmopolitan lifestyle: walking to shops and browsing farmers markets.

Its backers promote it as a safe haven, but detractors say it deals a blow to hopes of saving the traditional heart of Guatemala City.

"Cayala creates a world for those who can afford it," said architect Carlos Mendizabal. "Cayala sells an illusion that everything is OK, but it is not open to all people."

ROMINA RUIZ-GOIRIENA (AP)

Backstory

Cayala's developers purchased the land on the outskirts of Guatemala City in the 1980s and began building conventional if costly subdivisions. But in recent years, they have begun to turn it into a virtual city. Work on the centerpiece, Paseo Cayala, began in January 2011. Developers say they have invested $66 million there to create walkable neighborhoods with a range of housing types and commerce. (AP)

655

The number of years that the owners of a Swiss farm have had to pay a $76 annual fee to the Catholic Church to atone for a crime. A court ruled Tuesday that the landowner no longer has to pay the fee, which had been a tradition since 1357, when a man named Konrad Mueller promised to pay to keep an eternal lamp lit in penitence for murder. (AP)

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Metro: No Rocks, Please

Transit agency hands out fliers in attempt to curb bus vandalism

Washington

Metrobuses traveling in parts of Southeast Washington have been pelted with rocks, Metro says. As part of a campaign to discourage this, police are distributing fliers reminding people not to throw rocks at buses or cars.

Metro Transit Police and the Metropolitan Police Department have been distributing fliers that remind folks that throwing rocks at vehicles is a crime. The fliers also note that penalties range from a $500 fine to 10 years in prison if someone is injured from the attack.

The fliers include phone numbers to report incidents: 911; 202-727-9099 for D.C. police; and 202-962-2121 for transit police.

The transit agency was so concerned about the rock attacks that it recently considered cutting night-time service on the W6 and W8 bus routes in Southeast.

That prompted outrage by city leaders, including Mayor Vincent Gray, who said the agency had not justified the change. With many Ward 8 residents needing public transit, any cuts in bus service should not be made lightly, they said.

Metro decided last month not to discontinue the service.

MARK BERMAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Submitted by @twinkboi21, who wrote, "Random chicken bone under the seat for anyone?" Another question: Where are the rest?

Tag **@ExpressDCrider** in your Instagram posts of the transit system, and if we ♥ your shot, email it to us for publication at **dcrider@wpost.com.**

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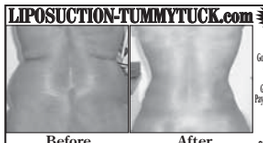

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Local

Rhee Responds to Cheating Claim

Ex-DCPS chancellor releases statement following feds' ruling

Washington

Federal investigators announced Monday that they found no evidence of widespread cheating in D.C. Public Schools, despite detailed allegations of systematic cheating laid out in a whistleblower complaint by former Noyes Education Campus principal Adell Cothorne.

Part of a complaint filed in May 2011, the allegations triggered an investigation by the U.S. Education Department's office of the inspector general.

Former D.C. Schools chancellor Michelle Rhee released a statement Tuesday in response to the federal investigators' findings.

She did not comment on Cothorne's complaint, which alleged that school employees may have been driven to cheat by the promise of substantial cash bonuses.

Cothorne's complaint was filed under the False Claims Act on behalf of the federal government, and Cothorne sought a percentage of any potential financial proceeds had the case gone to trial.

Cothorne told some details of the problems she saw at Noyes in a "Frontline" television documentary that was broadcast Tuesday.

Michelle Rhee, former DCPS chancellor, is now the head of StudentsFirst, a lobbying organization she founded.

Test scores rose in Washington during Rhee's tenure as chancellor, but the District still has among the widest achievement gaps and lowest graduation rates in the country.

Rhee is now head of StudentsFirst, the lobbying organization she founded to spread the reforms she championed in D.C.

"This conclusion supports previous investigations and findings of the DC Office of the Inspector General and others. At StudentsFirst we believe it is incredibly important to take all allegations of wrongdoing seriously and we thank both offices for doing so," Rhee wrote in a statement.

"The results confirm what we've long believed, that the vast majority of educators would never compromise their personal or professional integrity to cheat on a test, thereby cheating children." EMMA BROWN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

D.C. Closer To Autonomy Referendum

Washington

An effort to end congressional review of the District of Columbia's municipal budget will appear on the ballot despite concerns from the city's top attorney about its legality.

The D.C. Board of Elections announced Tuesday that it will allow city residents to vote on a charter amendment that would let the city spend local tax dollars without approval by Congress.

District leaders have long coveted more control over their budget. District Attorney General Irvin Nathan asked the board to consider rejecting the proposed amendment, saying he's concerned D.C. may be violating federal law if it passes. (AP)

Unseasonable Weather Hits D.C.

TRACY A. WOODWARD/TWP

NORMAN BRIGHT, LEFT, OF WASHINGTON, and Katie Kestner, right, of Virginia enjoy the sun and unusually warm temperatures while taking pictures of the National Capitol Columns inside the National Arboretum on Tuesday.

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	8-2-6
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	7-3-9
Mid-day Pick 4	8-0-6-1
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	3-1-5-4
Match 5 (Mon.)	6-26-27-29-39 (30)

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	5-7-6
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.)	4-5-6
Mid-day DC 4	4-5-5-4
Evening DC 4 (Mon.)	4-2-9-0
Mid-day D.C. Five	9-8-9-7-3
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.)	8-4-5-2-8

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	0-2-7
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	2-3-5
Mid-day Pick 4	7-4-1-7
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	6-0-4-7
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	3-18-30-32-33
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	2-11-16-28-29

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

In Brief

SADIE DINGFELDER/TWP

The Lincoln Theatre on U Street is one of the venues hosting the NSO this week.

WASHINGTON

NSO Heading to U Street In 'Neighborhood' Series

The National Symphony Orchestra is making its home in Washington's U Street, Shaw and Logan Circle neighborhoods this week. The orchestra is opening a series of free performances and events in area theaters, schools, churches and other gathering spots. The "NSO In Your Neighborhood" series runs through Jan. 14. Performances are planned at Howard University, the 9:30 Club and the Lincoln Theatre. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Man Convicted of Posing As Cabbie, Raping Women

Prosecutors say a D.C. man has been convicted of posing as a cab driver and kidnapping and raping three female passengers. Emero Tornero, 32, was found guilty Monday on 16 charges, including kidnapping and sexual abuse. He faces a possible life term at sentencing March 13. According to evidence presented at trial, Tornero's vehicle was rigged so the back doors and windows could not be opened from the inside. (AP)

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

O'Malley: Death Penalty Repeal Within 2 Votes

Gov. Martin O'Malley says he's confident the state Senate is within two votes of supporting a repeal of capital punishment in Maryland. O'Malley spoke to reporters on Tuesday after a lunch with Maryland Democrats. The Democratic governor, who supports a repeal of the death penalty, says he thinks it's "very possible" that there are two more senators who would vote to repeal capital punishment this year. (AP)

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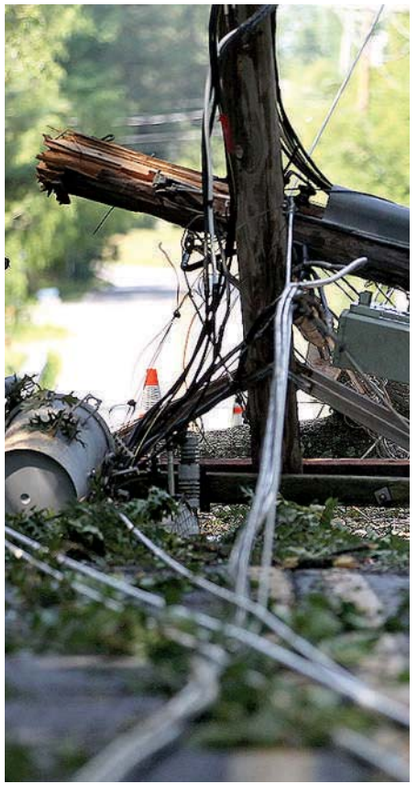
Cover Story

GETTY IMAGES



Signs of the Times

Measured by the number of high-damage events, 2012 ranked second after 2011, with 11 different disasters that caused more than $1 billion in damage, NOAA said. Superstorm Sandy headlined the year's monster storms, but here's a look at some of the other weather events that made 2012 so brutal:

- The Midwest drought, far left, was the worst since the 1950s and slightly behind the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, meteorologists said. During a drought, the ground is so dry that there's not enough moisture in the soil to evaporate to cause rainfall, which leads to hotter, drier air. This was fed in the U.S. by La Nina.
- The derecho, middle, on June 29 killed at least 20 people and left extended, widespread power outages for more than 1.3 million people in the Washington region.
- Widespread, record-setting wildfires in the West, right, were stoked by the warm, dry conditions. Overall, 9.2 million acres burned, the third-most on record. (TWP)

Just Getting Warmed Up?

A scorching 2012 shattered U.S. records, and some experts say it fits a global trend

Washington

America set an off-the-charts heat record in 2012.

A brutal combination of a widespread drought and a mostly absent winter pushed the average annual U.S. temperature last year up to 55.32 degrees Fahrenheit, the government announced Tuesday.

That's a full degree warmer than the old record set in 1998.

Breaking temperature records by an entire degree is unprecedented, scientists say. Normally, records are broken by a tenth of a degree or so.

"It was off the chart," said Deke Arndt, head of climate monitoring at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., which calculated the temperature records.

Last year, he said, will go down as "a huge exclamation point at the end of a couple decades of warming."

The data center's figures for the entire world won't come out until next week, but through the first 11 months of 2012, the world was on pace to have its eighth warmest year on record.

Scientists say the U.S. heat is part global warming in action and natural weather variations. The drought that struck almost two-thirds of the nation and a La Nina weather event helped push temperatures higher, along with climate change from man-made greenhouse gas emissions, said Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University. She said temperature increases are happening faster than scientists predicted.

"These records do not occur like this in an unchanging climate," said Kevin Trenberth, head of climate analysis at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. "And they are costing many billions of dollars."

What's happening with temperatures in the United States is consistent with the long-term pattern of "big heat events that reach into new levels of intensity," Arndt said.

Still, John Christy, who directs the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, said some researchers are exaggerating the severity of the threat. He said that the right climate target is "in the mind of the beholder," given that rising energy demand is a sign that many poor people are struggling "to be lifted out of their current condition."

"No one in Washington can stop that," he said.

The U.S. experienced weather events in 2012 — including extreme storms and drought — that many scientists say can be exacerbated by climate change.

Some scientists, however, think it is premature to blame droughts or hurricanes on human-caused warming. Georgia Institute of Technology atmospheric scientist Judith Curry said in an email that the global average temperature for 2012 will not set a record.

"Natural variability continues to dominate the occurrence of extreme weather events," she said.

Nonetheless, many scientists are worried about rising emissions, and many experts are engaged in a discussion over whether they should continue pressing for ambitious carbon cuts in the near term or adjust their goals in the face of the prospect of a much warmer world. (AP/THE WASHINGTON POST)

1983 The last time the U.S. had a record cold month. It occurred that December. (AP)

3.2°

Last year was 3.2 degrees warmer than the average for the entire 20th century. Last July was the hottest month on record. Nineteen states set yearly heat records in 2012. U.S. temperature records go back to 1895, and the yearly average is based on reports from more than 1,200 stations across the Lower 48 states. (AP)

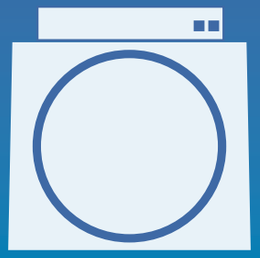
sears
Dryer Vent Cleaning

The # 1 cause of fires in America is dryer vent related

Clean your Dryer Vent if you have any of these Warning Signs

clothes, towels or jeans are taking a long time to dry

clothes are hotter than usual after dry cycle



top of dryer gets too hot while running

flapper on vent hood doesn't open all the way when dryer is on

A dryer fire can be caused when hot air from your dryer exhaust meets with any type of dryer debris. Each Year over 15,000 fires are caused by dryers in the United States alone. That is over 300 injuries and 30 deaths. Fires can occur when lint builds up in your dryer or in the exhaust duct and the blocked flow of air, causes excessive heat build-up. This "Failure to Clean" was cited as the leading factor contributing to dryer fires in residential buildings.

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Sports

GREG FIUME/GETTY IMAGES

First baseman Adam LaRoche will return to Washington after testing free agency. In 2012, he led the Nationals in home runs (33), RBIs (100) and OPS (.853).

Nationals Bring Back LaRoche

First baseman agrees on two-year contract with option for 2015

Nationals

The wait for Adam LaRoche to make up his mind had played out long enough. It was time to decide if he would take the Washington Nationals' offer or move on.

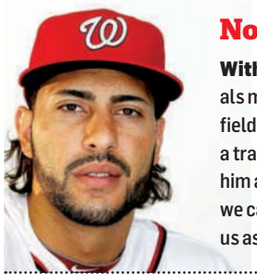
The slugging first baseman decided to stay with the Nationals on Tuesday, agreeing to a two-year deal reportedly worth $24 million with a mutual option for a third year. He wanted a full three-year contract, but Washington was never going to offer one.

"I think we both were getting tired of the process," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said. "We had a lot of conversations back and forth with his representative. Adam and I had a few private conversations. ... I made it clear to Adam that it's time to get this thing done. Make a decision. Our offer is what it is. It's been on the table for a while. It's time to think of your options and pull the trigger if you want to be here."

LaRoche's return completes the final piece of an expected starting lineup for the defending NL East champions and renders Michael Morse expendable. Morse played outfield last year but would have moved to first base if LaRoche had not re-signed, giving the Nationals much of the leverage they needed to balk at LaRoche's bid for the extra year in the contract.

LaRoche had a superb 2012 at the plate — .271 average, 33 home runs, 100 RBIs — but he's 33 years old, and Washington is flush with young, emerging talent that will cost a lot of money to keep in a few years. Also, LaRoche's value was hampered on the open market because any team signing him would have forfeited a supplementary first-round draft pick to the Nationals.

"We were in a pretty enviable position negotiating-wise because our other option was already under contract and in-house," Rizzo said. "And that allowed us to be so patient with Adam." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)



No More Morse?

With Adam LaRoche back at first base, the Nationals may look to trade Michael Morse, who lost his outfield spot when Washington acquired Denard Span in a trade in November. "We're certainly not going to give him away," general manager Mike Rizzo said. "But if we can make the right deal that works for Mike and for us as a franchise, we'll certainly do that deal." (AP)

> **"To be honest, we all make way more than we should, anyway. Either way, it's a ton of money."**
>
> — **ADAM LAROCHE,** IN A PHONE INTERVIEW WITH THE WASHINGTON POST AFTER ENDING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

Wall Ball: John Wall could make his season debut Saturday for the Washington Wizards after months of rehabbing his injured left knee. Wizards owner Ted Leonsis said on his blog Tuesday that "it is possible but not quite certain, for the first time all season, that we could dress all of our players" for the game against the Atlanta Hawks. Wall has been recovering from a stress injury to his left kneecap and recently returned to practice. (AP)

In Brief

KATHY WILLENS/AP

Carmelo Anthony got into an altercation with Kevin Garnett on Monday.

NBA

Carmelo: I Just Wanted To Talk With Garnett

Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony said Tuesday he lost his cool after the Celtics' Kevin Garnett said things to him that he feels shouldn't be said to "another man." Anthony said he sought out Garnett after the Knicks' loss to Boston Monday so they could discuss it. He would not elaborate on what was said. Anthony went toward the Celtics' locker room and waited for Garnett outside the team bus. He said they spoke and sorted out the matter. (AP)

GOLF

Johnson Earns First Win Of the PGA Tour Season

Dustin Johnson ended a windy week with a wild ride Tuesday that carried him to the first win of the PGA Tour season. Despite hitting two drives into native areas, Johnson never lost the lead. He closed with a 5-under 68 for a four-shot win in the Tournament of Champions at the Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii. The tournament didn't start until the fourth day because of powerful winds. (AP)

TV Lineup

NBA (8 P.M., ESPN) The Lakers will be without big men Dwight Howard, Pau Gasol and Jordan Hill when they head to San Antonio.

COLLEGE HOOPS (10 P.M., CBSSN) Two of the top mid-majors in the country face off when No. 24 UNLV (13-2) plays No. 25 New Mexico in both teams Mountain West openers.

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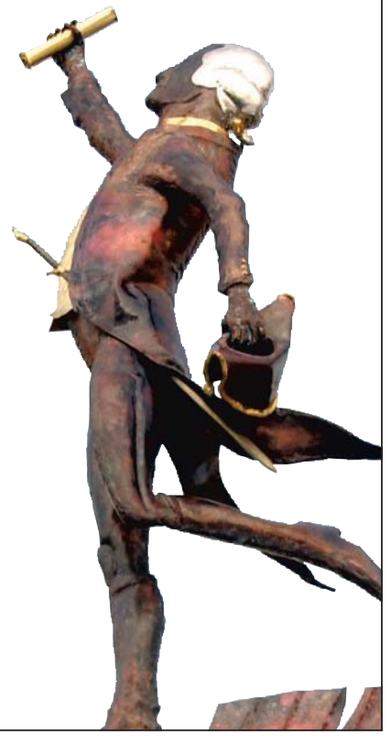

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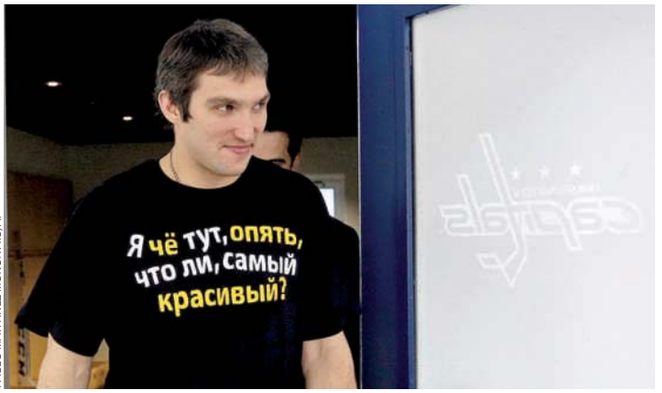
Sports



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

Alex Ovechkin and nine other Capitals players had an informal skate Tuesday.

Pretty Quickly, Ovechkin Returns From Russia

Capitals

Alex Ovechkin joked about his engagement to a tennis player and wore a T-shirt that read, in Russian: "Am I really the prettiest one here, again?"

Who knows how he'll look on the ice, but the two-time NHL MVP sure seems like his old self.

Having made a quick return from Russia once he heard that the NHL lockout was ending, Ovechkin joined nine other Washington Capitals on the ice for an informal skate Tuesday morning as they awaited the formal ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement.

"Right now it's over," Ovechkin said. "And sometimes you just think, 'Why'd we do that?'"

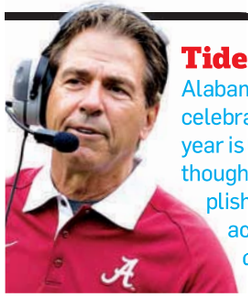
Ovechkin was so pessimistic about the labor talks that he expected to spend the entire season playing for his hometown Dynamo Moscow in the Kontinental Hockey League. He also said he and other NHL Russians would have stayed overseas if the new collective bargaining agreement had slashed their existing contracts.

As it is, he returns in better hockey shape than many of his peers, having played in 31 games with Dynamo while enjoying more time with family and friends. He said he got to celebrate New Year's in Moscow for the first time in 14 years, and on Dec. 31 he gave a ring to tennis player Maria Kirilenko.

Ovechkin smiled when asked about life as an engaged man.

"It's a good feeling," he said. "It's not that feeling anymore where you can do whatever you want. You have a girl with a tennis racket and she can hit you."

No date has been set for the wedding — Kirilenko is Down Under as she prepares for the Australian Open — nor have any dates been set for the Capitals. Training camp is expected to begin this weekend, with the regular season openers following about a week later. JOSEPH WHITE (AP)



Tide Already Moving On

Alabama coach Nick Saban wasted little time celebrating his national title. "The team next year is 0-0," Saban said Tuesday morning. "Even though I really appreciate what this team accomplished and am very, very proud of what they accomplished, we need to prepare for the challenges of the new season very quickly with the team we have coming back." (AP)

For Maryland, a Fresh Look on ACC Stage

Terps Hoops

It's just one game.

That has been Mark Turgeon's refrain since Saturday, when Maryland opened its ACC schedule with a 23-point rout of Virginia Tech.

"Just because we won by 20 doesn't mean we're 3-0," the coach said. "We're 1-0 in the league. Don't get too high or too low."

Maryland's relatively easy non-conference schedule produced a 12-1 record and Saturday marked the first of 18 ACC games. Though Turgeon was reluctant to make sweeping statements after the game, he was convinced of one thing: His freshmen will not wilt on the grander stage.

JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Freshman forward Jake Layman had a career-high 20 points Saturday.

Jake Layman scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half, while Seth Allen scored 14 of his 21 in the second half. Big men Charles Mitchell and Shaquille Cleare were physical and efficient in limited minutes.

"I kept telling you that they weren't ready. In practice, I was waiting for them to get ready and they weren't," Turgeon said. "They are all ready. ... They are big-time players, and all of our new guys played well."

8 P.M.
Wednesday
My20

The other new guys are transfers Dez Wells, a sophomore, and Logan Aronhalt, a senior. Of Maryland's 94 points, 72 came from players who weren't on the roster a year ago.

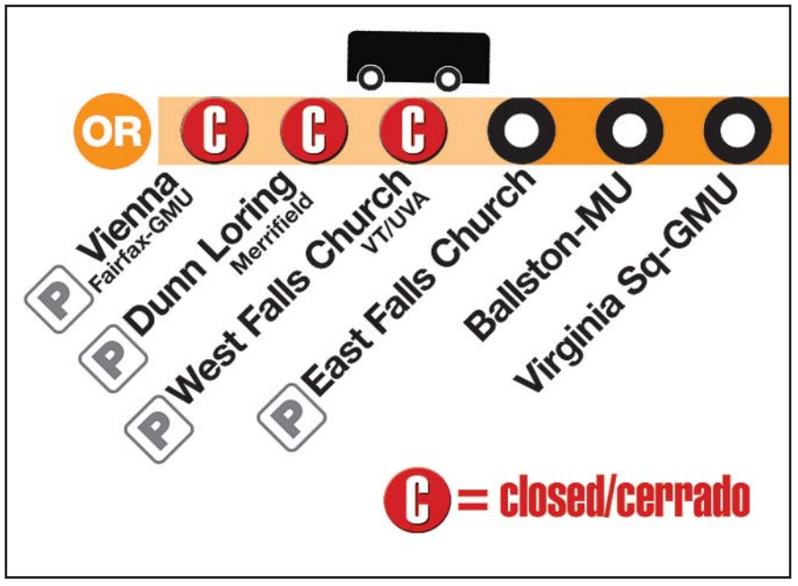
Layman's scoring outburst was the day's biggest revelation. Getting the start and extended minutes because of Nick Faust's back spasms, Layman doubled his previous career-best scoring output. It was only the second time this season he's scored more than seven points.

"He's like the little brother that's bigger than the big brother," Wells said. "He doesn't realize his potential and how good he can be. Once he really owns all his potential ... he's going to be one of the best players to play at Maryland."

Maryland's next test comes Wednesday when Florida State visits College Park. The Seminoles, who won 25 games last season, are off to a 9-5 start and beat Clemson on Saturday in their ACC opener.

"They're going to guard you. They're going to execute. They're going to be physical, which we need," Turgeon said. "We haven't been playing as physical as we need to play. Hopefully, Florida State will be able to bring that out in us." DEREK TURNER (FOR EXPRESS)

TRACK WORK THIS WEEKEND



From Friday, January 4 at 10 p.m. to Sunday, January 6 at closing: Buses replace trains on the Orange Line between East Falls Church and Vienna while Metro performs work in preparation for the Silver Line. For last train times or information about shuttle bus service, parking, alternate routes or track work on upcoming weekends, please visit MetroForward.com or call 202-637-7000.

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CHINAWATCH

Spreading wings early

More and more Chinese students are getting a head start on study abroad by enrolling in private US high schools, **Yu Wei** reports in New York.

Dozens of teenage boys and girls wearing the business-casual uniform of an elite Manhattan prep school rush into the cafeteria on a recent afternoon, boisterously chatting. It's an unremarkable scene that could play out at any private institution charged with educating the children of well-to-do Americans.

But these students are Chinese, which becomes evident even from a distance since their conversation is exclusively in Mandarin.

They're enrolled at Leman Manhattan Preparatory School, in New York's financial district.

Among the group is Sun Yihao, a 17-year-old from Shanghai who is a junior in Leman's high school (there also are primary- and middle-school programs).

Leman is good preparation for studying at a US university, says Sun, who dreams of being admitted to Princeton.

"I don't like China's grueling education system, which involves tons of homework and exams. I like the US style of education," he said.

Sun and his classmates are part of a rapidly growing trend. According to the US Department of Homeland Security, only 65 Chinese students were enrolled in private US high schools during the 2005-2006 academic year. By 2010-2011, the number reached 6,725.

"The location is great; I think it will be good for my future," Sun said in a classroom just blocks from Wall Street itself, as well as landmarks such as the New York Stock Exchange and the bronze Charging Bull sculpture.

He hopes to major in finance at Princeton.

Most of the other Chinese students at Leman also plan to go to US colleges and universities, Sun says.

Those institutions have seen enrollment from China rise 23 percent this year to 190,000, or a quarter of all of their international students, according to Open Doors, published annually by the Institute of International Education and the US State Department.

Leman's 40 international boarders live in a school-run dormitory at 37 Wall St, a luxury building anchored by jeweler Tiffany & Co on the ground floor.

Their education experience isn't cheap. The cost for an international student who boards at Leman is $68,000 a year including tuition.

ZHOU MIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

A Beijing educational event held by US boarding schools draws a crowd of teenagers and parents.

"Compared to my high school in China, the cost is high. But my parents are 100 percent supportive," said Sun, who had attended a Shanghai private school where the annual tuition of 110,000 yuan ($17,500) was far more expensive than a Chinese public high school.

On average, the total cost (tuition plus room and board) of attending a private boarding school in the New York metropolitan area is $46,875 for the 2011-2012 academic year, according to the National Association of Independent Schools. That's about $2,000 above the median cost per year for all US private boarding schools.

"It's expensive, but when you live on Wall Street, the cost of apartments and the cost of living are huge," said Drew Alexander, head of school at Leman, which opened its doors in 2005.

With teenagers, many of them from other countries, in the school's charge amid the concrete canyons of lower Manhattan, there are a number of safety measures in place.

For one, students must have their school-assigned mobile phone with them when they sign out, and they are only allowed to leave their dorm in groups of three or more.

To earn the freedom to explore their immediate environs, Leman students must pass a series of tests — take a walking tour of the neighborhood, demonstrate a working knowledge of the New York City transit system and attend a safety presentation by the police department.

This year, 30 of Leman's international boarding students are Chinese; the other 10 are from Italy, Russia, Germany, South Korea and Turkey.

For Sun, the prevalence of so many compatriots can be frustrating.

"I can't practice my English well enough when there are so many Chinese classmates around," he complained.

To address this, the school has established an English-as-a-second-language, or ESL, program that extends beyond regular classroom hours.

"In reality, students spend most of their day in an English context — taking classes in English, socializing with American students, doing homework in English," said Brylee Maxfield, communications manager at Leman.

She points out that New York's diversity provides students many opportunities to step outside their comfort zones and experience other languages and cultures.

Besides its extended ESL services, the school also provides at least one Mandarin-speaking instructor to translate for Chinese students when they're struggling to understand something in class.

According to the Association of Boarding Schools, about 5,600 students from China enrolled in its 285 member schools in the US this academic year. Each school has an average of about 20 Chinese students, a number that has increased steadily for nearly a decade.

"Having many students from a single country or language group can be challenging," said Pete Upham, executive director of the North Carolina-based association, which also represents schools in Canada and other countries.

"Families from China or any country are sending their kids to US boarding schools in part to have a Western experience," he said.

"If there are a large number of students from their home country, it begins to take the shine off the appeal of these places."

The Chinese student body at US boarding schools appears to be nearing a plateau, Upham says. "I do expect that next year there still will be more Chinese students, but I think the rate of growth is slowing considerably."

The reason isn't demand, which remains high. Instead, schools are nearly at capacity for absorbing all the Chinese students they can, given their desire to have a diverse student population.

Many US boarding schools are nonetheless putting more resources into recruiting from China. Administrators at Squaw Valley Academy, on the California (western) side of Lake Tahoe, recently visited Chinese high schools to promote their institution, which caters to foreign as well as American students.

According to Squaw Valley Admissions Director Adrienne Forbes, the school has received many applications from China since it began enrolling Chinese students in 2006.

To better serve this growing population, the California school now offers Chinese-inspired meals each week and organizes Chinese cultural activities every Friday.

"The students enjoy a Chinese dinner, play games of mahjong and watch Chinese videos," Forbes said.

Gleaming with tradition

By ZHANG YUE

For 41-year-old Li Zhengyun and his family, silver craftsmanship is a traditional skill that was kept in the family, and only passed onto men. Today, Li is not only asking both his son and daughter to learn it, but also giving lectures in universities.

For the women of the Miao ethnic group in Southwest China, wearing elaborate silver headpieces, bracelets, ox horns and the like is not just ornamental, but also demonstrates the families' fortunes and showcases Miao traditions during weddings, funerals and holidays.

At a recent exhibition in Beijing featuring handicrafts from Guizhou province, Li and his silver works attracted much attention. "I do not even need to draw an outline on paper beforehand," he said, twining a strand of silver into a butterfly on a pencil tip.

Li's family stands out in Kaili city, Guizhou, for their skill at making exquisite silver ornaments by hand. Li is the family's ninth generation of masters at silver crafting, which is listed as one of China's intangible cultural heritages. Today, fewer local artisans are passing the skill to the next generation. In recent years, Li has been trying to teach anyone willing to learn.

"Most young people, especially men, prefer to go to cities as migrant workers to support their families," he said. "It brings faster and larger sums of money."

Back in the 1990s, when silver handicrafts were rare, Li and his father used to spend years away from home, visiting villages and households in remote poverty-stricken mountains to produce sets of silverware.

The father and son earned roughly 6,000 yuan ($960) a year, an important income for their family, which also relied on corn and raising pigs. They moved to Kaili in 2000 due to dwindling harvests and poor business.

WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

Li Chen, 12, concentrates on making a silver ornament at a recent Guizhou handicrafts exhibition in Beijing.

Today, Li owns a silver-ornament workshop with his elder brother. They receive orders from all around the country, and their income has increased tenfold. The family has even ventured into e-business as they opened a store on Taobao.com, one of the country's leading e-commerce websites.

Li finds that silver decorations are more popular among Han people, as his workshop receives more orders from the big cities.

"These decorations are special not only because they are elegant and tiny, but also because they are all purely handmade," said Wang Qi, a young customer who spent 200 yuan on a pair of silver earrings at the recent exhibition in the capital.

Since 2012, Li has been giving lectures in the art school of Shanghai University, China Academy of Art and Nanjing Institute of Arts and Crafts. University students majoring in arts also visit his home in Guizhou during holidays to learn the skill.

"It is our responsibility to pass the skill to younger generations as we are getting older," Li said. "I wish we could expose the handicraft to more people outside of Guizhou."

This exposure to higher education has prompted Li to pay professional art teachers 50 yuan per hour to teach his son and his 16-year-old daughter painting once a week.

"Early and constant training can help to improve their skills and enlighten their art-design ideas. And this will help them go to professional art colleges," he said.

Li's 12-year-old son, Li Chen, was absorbed in making silver decorations while his father introduced their works to customers in Beijing.

While the father picked up the skill at the age of 15, the son started to learn when he was 9. Li Chen is the only boy who has excellent skills in silver processing in his class of 40-plus students. The boy has won several awards in handicraft competitions in Guizhou.

In his heart though, the father wishes his children would seek a life different from his.

"For most of my life, I have worked all day till midnight and made very little money," Li said.

"I hope they can major in finance or international business, so they can make big money, and not have to work as hard as we did."

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Love Lockdown
Parents-to-be Kim and Kanye buy a new mansion together 31

Inside Jokes

FX

Marshaling Laughs

Ever since I watched HBO's "The Sopranos," I've been convinced that TV dramas can be as funny as sitcoms (see also: "Breaking Bad," "Mad Men" and even "The Wire").

I recently marathoned the first three seasons of FX's "Justified," which follows the goings-on of Deputy U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens (Timothy Olyphant, above left) and a rotating cast of criminals in Kentucky. Yet again, I found myself laughing more than I expected.

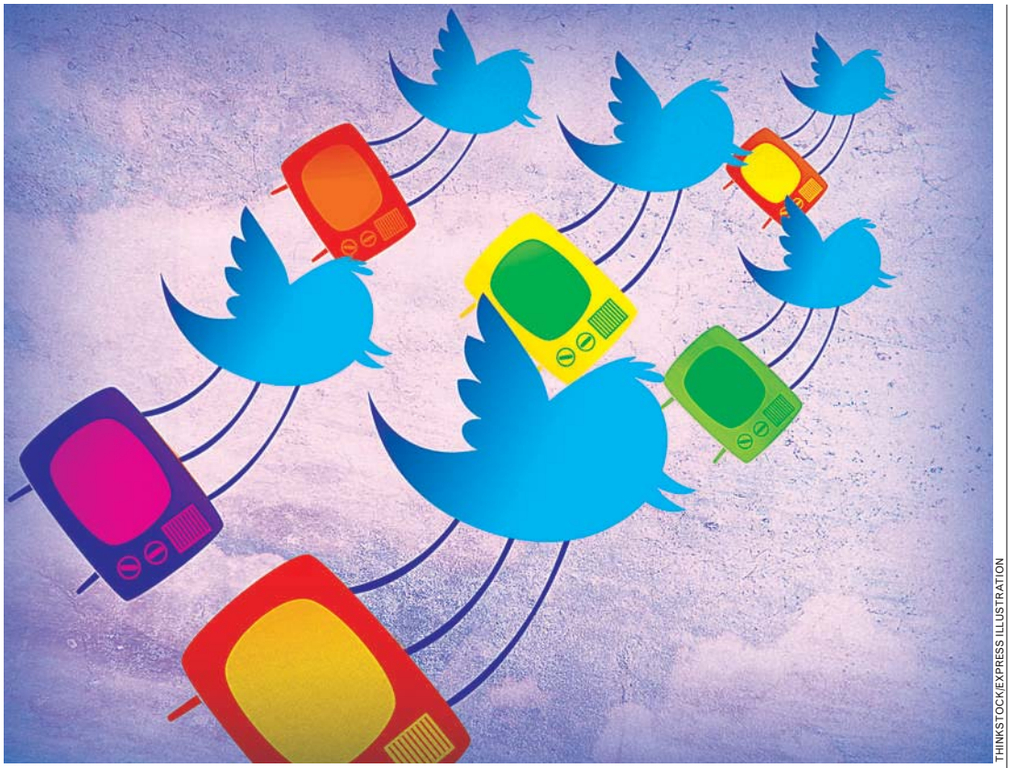
By Rudi Greenberg

Comedy in a drama (particularly a violent one) is most often used to provide relief from otherwise tense or suspenseful situations. Like when a "Justified" character "disarms" a bad guy by chopping off his arm.

Humor is also written into this crime show's DNA: The sharp and witty writings of Elmore Leonard, who created Raylan, serve as inspiration.

Last night's season 4 premiere added a true comedian to the show's ranks: Patton Oswalt (above right), as Constable Bob Sweeney, who thinks he's much more of a badass than he actually is. So far, the role isn't entirely comedic (Oswalt plays it in a way that suggests a hidden darkness) and that's OK — in a drama, a little bit of comedy goes a long way.

@ For more of Rudi's comedy musings, follow him on Twitter: **@rudigreenberg**.



THINKSTOCK/EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Nielsen Becomes A Twitter Follower

The ratings company is developing a way to gauge online chatter during TV programs

Television

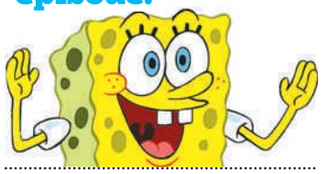
Consumer information giant Nielsen is partnering with Twitter to create the Nielsen Twitter TV Rating, "a syndicated-standard metric around the reach of the TV conversation on Twitter," to be made available at the beginning of this fall's TV season.

This is exciting stuff, people! We've been stuck with an antiquated rating system for quite a while now, one that's still grappling with no-duh issues like "What about people who don't watch shows during their scheduled time slot?" and "How do we count the masses who use laptops and tablets and smartphones to watch TV?" That Nielsen considers the conversation about television on Twitter too loud to ignore is a major development itself.

Though the television industry has a track record of wariness when it comes to the Internet, broadcasters are becoming more accepting of Twitter. Cast members tweet about upcoming episodes, networks promote specific hashtags for viewers to use during shows and, in the case of HBO's "Girls," it's a prominent piece of an ad campaign. "What we find is that, increasingly, the entire industry is embracing that cross-platform approach," says Matt Anchin, senior vice president of global communications at Nielsen.

The new ratings won't usurp the old; Nielsen will continue to produce a TV rating, to which this new rating will serve as a complement. Exactly how the new system will work, though, and whether this magic number will be used for more than just a means to a marketing end is yet to be determined. Even counting tweets can be tricky: Broadcasters and advertisers want to know volume — how many people tweeted — but they also want to know about reach, how many people read the tweet and how influential the tweeter was.

The most tweeted-about show? "SpongeBob SquarePants," which averages 80,000 social interactions per episode.



Discussion of sports and reality shows makes up about half of all social TV conversation. But the most tweeted-about show is "SpongeBob SquarePants," which averages 80,000 social interactions per episode and airs 250 telecasts per year. Competitions like "The X Factor" and "The Voice" build lots of Twitter buzz, too; the average "X Factor" episode yields over 615,000 tweets.

What Nielsen hopes the new ratings will provide, Anchin says, is "an incredibly exciting new dimension to understanding audiences and what they're thinking about."

JESSICA GOLDSTEIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Backstory

Tweet-Worthy TV

The biggest television hits on Twitter tend to be special events, usually live ones, with a hint of unpredictability. Last year's Oscars garnered more than 2 million tweets; the 2012 Super Bowl set a then-record for the highest number of tweets per second for an English-language event; the Olympics sparked more than 150 million tweets in 16 days; and there were 20 million tweets on Election Night last year. (TWP)

lookout entertainment

David Bowie's Birthday Gift

The Thin White Duke announces his first album in a decade

Music

David Bowie on Tuesday broke years of silence to release a surprise single on his 66th birthday and announce his first studio album in a decade.

The song, "Where Are We Now," was mentioned in a Twitter post and put on the front page of the singer's website. It can be downloaded from iTunes.

It will be followed by his album "The Next Day," set for release on March 12. It will be his first studio collection of new material since "Reality" in 2003.

The star rose to fame with songs such as "Space Oddity" and "Life on Mars." His No. 1 hits include "Fame" and "Let's Dance."

He has not sung live for years. Bowie suffered chest pain while performing in Germany in 2004 and later said it was a minor heart attack. Bowie is not expected to tour behind "The Next Day."

The new song and album are produced by Tony Visconti, Bowie's New York neighbor and longtime collaborator.

The single recalls Bowie's time in Berlin, where he made some of his finest music in the 1970s. In the song, he lists some of his favorite places and repeats the melancholy line, "Just walking the dead."

Bowie has rarely been seen in public in recent years and his spokesman has denied reports of further ill health. MARK BEECH (BLOOMBERG NEWS)

Figure Reaction: Slavery-era action figures tied to Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained" are raising questions about appropriateness. The Weinstein Company is selling a line of figures featuring the movie's main characters. Najee Ali, director of the advocacy group Project Islamic Hope, is calling for the removal of the toys from the market. "We feel that it trivializes the horrors of slavery and what African-Americans experienced," Ali says. (AP)

TLC

"Totally T-Boz" follows the TLC singer as she tries to mount a solo career.

TLC's T-Boz Puts Her Life on Display

Personalities

For TLC singer T-Boz, it has been a rocky road since the 2002 death of Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, a tragedy that put the R&B group on hold.

She has faced foreclosure, filed twice for bankruptcy and dealt with an abusive marriage that ended in divorce. The 42-year-old also experienced life-threatening health issues that derailed her career.

She's hoping her struggles — and getting past them — will connect with audiences through her new reality show, "Totally T-Boz" (Tuesdays, TLC, 8 p.m.).

"This is a real story about a real girl who did real things," says T-Boz, who was born Tionne Watkins.

T-Boz dealt with a brain tumor in 2006, and the surgery left her with partial hearing and sight. She said it took three years of physical therapy to recover, and now she's hoping to relaunch her music career as a solo artist and to tour for TLC's 20th anniversary.

"I superseded a lot of things," says T-Boz, who also has chronic sickle cell anemia. "I was told I wouldn't live past 30." JONATHAN LANDRUM JR. (AP)

> **"I superseded a lot of things. I was told I wouldn't live past 30."**
>
> — **T-BOZ,** WHO HAS SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND FOUGHT A BRAIN TUMOR IN 2006.

Today's Top Stops

COMPILED BY FIONA ZUBLIN

COURTESY WASHINGTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

1 Quirk Theory

Not every whimsical young woman in a movie is a Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Case in point: Deb Dorfman (played by Sara Rue, left), the offbeat, struggling protagonist of "Dorfman," which screens tonight as part of the Washington Jewish Film Festival. Elliott Gould (right) serves as your "Hey, It's That Guy!" in his role as Deb's widowed dad. ***Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; Wed., 8:30 p.m., $11; 202-399-7993, Wjff.org.***

2 Livin' in a Lonely World

If you're going to see a Journey cover band, then you were either too young to see the group in its heyday, or you quoted "Don't Stop Believing" in your high school yearbook. Almost Journey is, as its name suggests, not quite Journey. ***Rams Head Center Stage at Maryland Live! Casino, 7002 Arundel Mills Circle #7777, Hanover, Md.; Wed., 8 p.m., free with admission; Marylandlivecasino.com.***

3 Bite at the Museum

The Corcoran kicks off a new Wednesday night happy hour, Corcoran Uncorked, tonight. Your ticket gets you a free drink, admission to every exhibit, a chance to talk to Beth Kanter about her new cookbook ("Washington, D.C. Chef's Table"), and a tasting of food from local chefs, including Ris Lacoste of RIS, Todd Gray of Equinox and Eric Brannon of Ted's Bulletin. ***Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW; Wednesdays, 5 p.m., $15; 202-639-1700, Corcoran.org. (Farragut West)***

TV tonight lookout

Best Bets

CBS 9:00

People's Choice Awards 2013 Kaley Cuoco, right, hosts as fans' favorite TV shows, movies, music and performers are honored at the annual gala from Los Angeles. Adam Levine could have a busy night: He's up for six awards, four with Maroon 5 and two for his work on TV's "The Voice."

PBS 9:00

NOVA In 2010, scientists announced they had reconstructed much of the Neanderthal genome and the analysis showed that modern humans and Neanderthals had interbred, leaving a small signature of Neanderthal genes in everyone outside Africa today. "Decoding Neanderthals" explores the implications of this discovery.

MTV 10:00

Washington Heights A gaggle of 20-somethings juggle family, relationships and friends en route to pursing big dreams in art, fashion, music and retail in this "Hills"-style reality series. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

ERIC LIEBOWITZ/FOX

'STARS IN DANGER: THE HIGH DIVE'

Celebrity Splash Mob

FOX 8:00

Fox takes a chapter from "Battle of the Network Stars" with "Stars in Danger: The High Dive." This two-hour spectacle invites Stephen "Twitch" Boss ("So You Think You Can Dance?"), Jenni Farley (JWoww of "Jersey Shore" infamy, right), shark-bite victim Bethany Hamilton, NFL pass-catcher and tirade-thrower Terrell Owens, left, Alexandra Paul ("Baywatch"), Kim and Kyle Richards ("The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills") and Antonio Sabato Jr. ("General Hospital") to learn and compete in the Olympic sport of high diving. I'd watch only if they put piranhas in the pool.

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNIVERSAL UCLICK)

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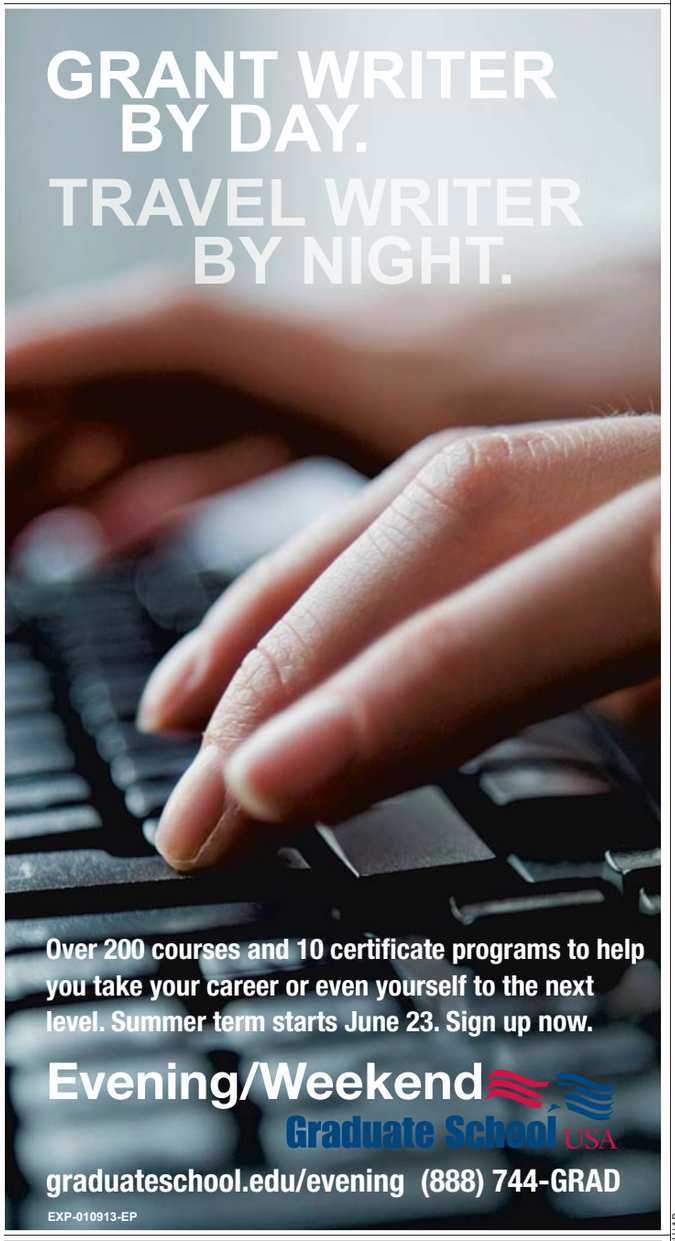

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lookout travel

Winter Thrills

When it comes to enjoying the snow, don't limit yourself

Adventure

After nearly 50 years of living in the Rocky Mountains, I thought I knew how to enjoy the winter. I've gone skiing, skating, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, tobogganing, sleigh riding, dog-sledding and more.

But until this winter, I'd never heard of bumper cars on a skating rink. And it wasn't until recently that I had my first chance to carve turns down a ski hill on a snow-bike. So for a different spin on a snow-destination vacation, here are some things to look for:

Air Bags

These massive, inflatable air bags are placed at the bottom of jumps to allow skiers and boarders to try flips and spins. Nail the landing on your feet, and you ride off down the hill. Fail, and you have a soft landing. Visit Bagjump.com or Bigairbag.com.

Airboards

A high-tech spin on winter tubing, these snow bodyboards are inflatable sleds with molded plastic runners on the bottom and handles on the top. The sleds can reach speeds of 60 mph or more, and users steer by shifting their body weight. They're offered at some ski areas; Airboard.com has a partial list of rental locations.

KAREN SCHWARTZ/AP

Riders steer bumper cars on ice at Howelsen Ice Arena in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

> **"What we're seeing is a larger swath of the family ... and all of them have their idea of how they want to spend their day."**
>
> — **TROY HAWKS**, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, ON WINTER SPORTS TRENDS

Bumper Cars on Ice

Just what it sounds like, these are turning up at skating rinks from coast to coast. The battery-operated "cars" are large rubber tubes with molded seats that can hold one adult or an adult and small child. Controlled by two joysticks, they are easy to steer or spin as they bump along on wheels with tiny cleats.

First Tracks

The opportunity for intermediate and advanced skiers to take the first runs in the morning before the slopes open to the public is an option at more resorts. Some, including Northstar in California, require skiers to stay with a guide; others include a gourmet breakfast. A resort in Steamboat Springs, Colo., has been experimenting with multiple-day First Track passes, some of which can be shared among buddies.

Snowbikes

Bicycles that ride on skis, rather than wheels, have been around in various forms for decades, but now they have the blessing of some ski resorts, which rent the bikes and offer instruction. Smaller skis clip to your ski boots, helping with balance and maneuvering. The bikes can be taken on the chairlifts to access a variety of terrain. Visit Snowbike.info. KAREN SCHWARTZ (AP)

JIM GERBERICH/AP

John O'Malley snowkites across an open field in Cranbury, N.J.

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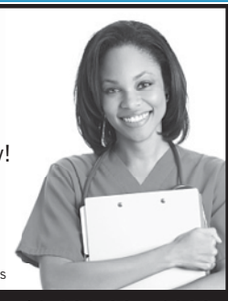

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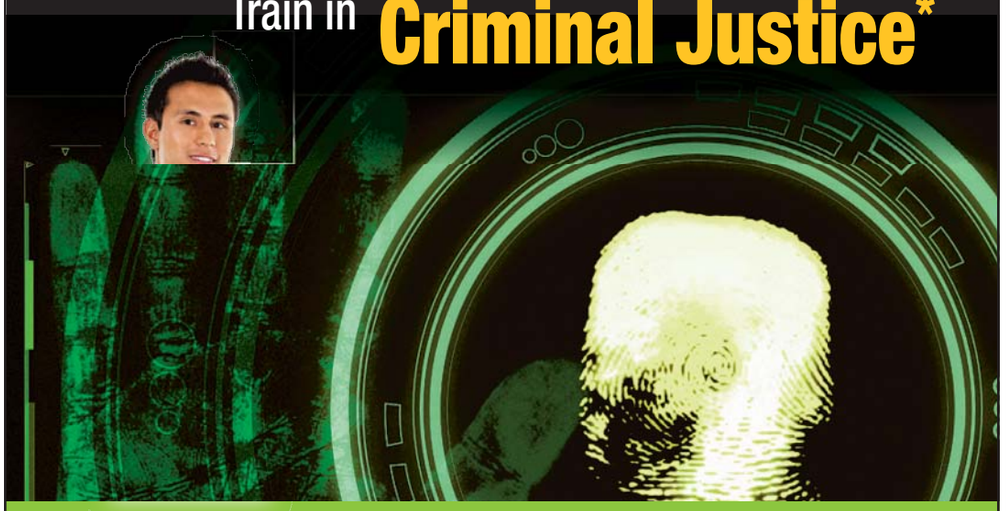

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lookout online

Blog Log

GETTY IMAGES

"In short, it's pretty scary stuff. What is it that makes 14th Street so dangerous? I was thinking the hill, but 14th and Perry is pretty flat, as is 14th and Euclid. I've noticed before that drivers don't always look when they're turning ... so that may be part of it, but is it something else? Do people not respect the cycle lane? And of course, it's possible cyclists can be blamed for some of these crashes."

— Andrew W at **NEWCOLUMBIAHEIGHTS.BLOGSPOT.COM** reacts to a new list published by Thewashcycle.com of "The 10 most crash-prone intersections for cyclists" based on DDOT data from 2008 to 2010.

"Sean Lowe is 'The Bachelor' and he is ready to find love or die trying — and by 'die' we mean date a lot of very attractive yet seemingly emotionally unstable women on national television in the hopes of finding love the old fashioned way."

— Melissa Locker at **ENTERTAINMENT.TIME.COM** is ready for the new season of the ABC reality show, which premiered Monday night for its 17th cycle.

"[Brent] Musberger's reaction isn't puzzling in the beer-wings-and-women culture of college football, but that doesn't mean it isn't troubling. ... It's a culture that views women as nothing more than chattel, a commodity to be won by the best player even if she isn't a willing participant. It fosters a sense of entitlement to women and their bodies that only ingrains the rape and violence culture deeper into the game."

— Travis Waldron at **THINKPROGRESS.ORG/ALYSSA** thought that the ABC broadcaster's remarks about Alabama quarterback A.J. McCarron's girlfriend, Katherine Webb, during Monday night's BCS Championship game were inappropriate. Musberger said of Webb: "Wow, I'm telling ya, you quarterbacks, you get all the good-looking women. What a beautiful woman! Whoa! So if you're a youngster in Alabama, start getting the football out and throw it around the backyard with pops."

"Back in 2009 the road closures for the inauguration went all the way up to Shaw. Mailboxes were removed, and in my opinion, and yes I'm not a security expert, a little security overkill. Sort of like the [airport] without the free massage ... We had National Guards all over the place, in the residential areas. On the plus side it did cut down on crime and gunfire."

— Mari at **BLOG.INSHAW.COM** remembers what life was like in her neighborhood for President Barack Obama's first inauguration.

puzzles lookout

Horoscope

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're likely to encounter someone who challenges you in a way that is unexpected and perhaps quite unconventional.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You must be willing to talk about the difficult things with a loved one today, or the problem you seek to solve will persist.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Don't give yourself too much time to get a certain task done, because it may not be yours to grant. The clock ticks at its own pace!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're being tempted by someone who doesn't appreciate the rules that you have pledged to follow. You needn't bend them for anyone!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You're likely to receive criticism for trying to do too much on your own at this time, but most critics are envious of your daring.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's a good day to shake it up a bit and do those things that others are certain you would never do. Danger to your reputation is minimal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The issue of survival may be far more real at this time than you had originally supposed — if not literally, then symbolically.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You know what you are doing, and you know how to get others to follow you faithfully. You'll need their help to bring a current project home!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're not yet willing to say goodbye to something that you feel you have only just begun exploring — but too many dangers surround you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may not know just what direction is best for you today, but once you choose one, you'll soon discover if you were correct.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A new acquaintance is interested in learning a great deal more about you than can be gleaned from a first meeting. Are you ready for this?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be surprised when a friend heads off on his own without seeking your advice or asking for you to tag along.

PostPoints DAILY CODE 4421

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 160-170, BEST SCORE 254

								RACK 1
O1	U1	X8	F4	L1	N1	C3	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 2
A1	E1	U1	K5	N1	T1	J8		
								RACK 3
A1	E1	I1	R1	H4	P3	P3	1st Letter Double	
								RACK 4
A1	E1	Y4	L1	N1	C3	R1		

Yesterday's Solution

L1	A1	U1	G2	H4	E1	R1	RACK 1 =	61
A1	D2	J8	O1	U1	R1	N1	RACK 2 =	80
A1	I1	R1	L1	I1	N1	E1	RACK 3 =	57
A1	C3	O1	L1	Y4	T1	E1	RACK 4 =	68
PAR SCORE 195-205							TOTAL	266

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. Seven-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

		2		6	1			
5			8				7	2
	9		2	7	5			8
					2		1	
1		8		4		3		9
	5		1					
3			6	2	7		9	
4	6				9			3
			4	3		5		

Yesterday's Solution

5	2	7	6	3	9	1	4	8
8	1	3	4	7	5	2	9	6
6	9	4	1	8	2	3	7	5
7	4	2	5	1	3	6	8	9
9	6	5	8	2	4	7	1	3
1	3	8	9	6	7	5	2	4
3	5	9	2	4	1	8	6	7
4	8	1	7	5	6	9	3	2
2	7	6	3	9	8	4	5	1

Need more Sudoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Comics

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS

Forecast

58 | 38

Today: Partly sunny and mild today. Mainly clear tonight.

52 | 38

Tomorrow: Some sun, then clouds tomorrow. A passing shower late tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

FRI	SAT	SUN
52 | 46	62 | 50	67 | 52

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:27 a.m.
Sunset today: 5:04 p.m.
Moonrise today: 5:03 a.m.
Moonset today: 3:03 p.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 43
Record high: 73
Normal low: 29
Record low: 0

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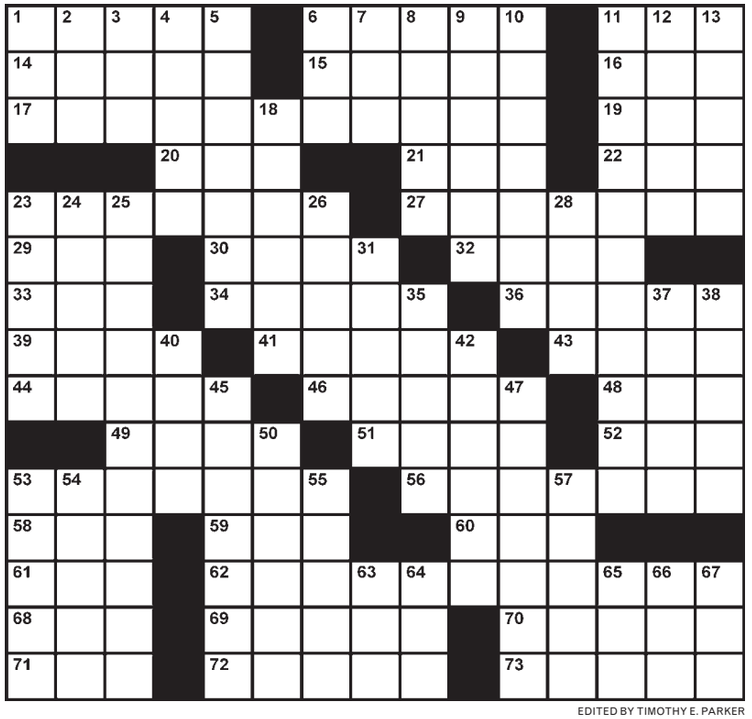
lookout puzzles

Crossword

CALLING ALL CARDS



EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

ACROSS

1 ___ costs (by any means)
6 Spinal vertebrae
11 Lively dance in Dublin
14 First name in Olympic gymnastics
15 "I'm betting everything," to poker players
16 Music's Yoko
17 Largest rattlesnake
19 Muckraker Tarbell
20 "Am ___ blame?"
21 Mu ___ pork
22 Not a whit
23 Rouses oneself
27 Euros replaced them
29 440 yards, to a runner
30 Roadie load
32 Rogen of "Green Hornet"
33 "Anytown, ___"
34 Nasal openings
36 Napped leather
39 T-men, e.g.
41 Able to do the splits, e.g.
43 Chilled, as tea
44 It has gobs of gobs
46 Consultants
48 Little guy
49 Antlered deer
51 Knitting stitch
52 Mentalist Geller
53 Embodiments
56 "Adieu"
58 Recycling receptacle
59 Place for an orchestra
60 Tire pressure fig.
61 "Jan. 1 through now" column
62 Combat award
68 "Do re mi fa ___ ..."
69 Maternally related
70 Ham and ___ (average Joe)
71 Abilene-to-San Antonio dir.
72 Remove cerumen
73 All lathered up

DOWN

1 It often comes between partners?
2 ___ chi (martial art form)
3 Abbr. on a toothpaste box
4 Maximum bet
5 Lives along the Mekong
6 Down in the dumps
7 Vatican vestment
8 Fastening device
9 Assets aplenty
10 Elephant goads
11 Commiserator's words
12 Land of the Taj Mahal
13 Hockey scores
18 Not irregular
23 Poker stratagem
24 Prop for Rembrandt
25 Shoveler's grip
26 Parsley unit
28 Holder of combs, etc.
31 Prepare for a gig
35 "Beats me" gesture
37 Term of affection
38 "Dr. Dolittle" star Murphy
40 Rush-hour subway rarity
42 Part of the Old World
45 Hemmed in
47 Almost spills
50 Being three in one
53 Deep chasm
54 Corleone and Antuofermo
55 Backbreaker, in a proverb
57 San ___, Calif.
63 H.S. support group
64 Superman foe Luthor
65 Turkish military title
66 Agent, for short
67 Make an attempt

Yesterday's Solution

Today in History

1951 The United Nations headquarters in New York officially opens.

1968 The Surveyor 7 space probe lands on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

1987 The White House releases a 1986 memo showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

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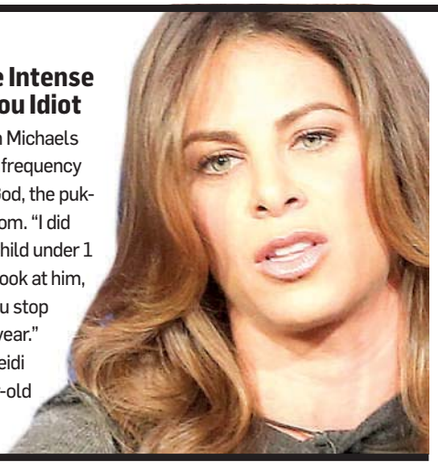
people lookout

PARENTING

Babies Can't Handle Intense Physical Training, You Idiot

"The Biggest Loser's" Jillian Michaels says her baby vomits with a frequency that surprised her. "Oh my God, the puking!" she told Usmagazine.com. "I did not anticipate how much a child under 1 throws up! Every day! I just look at him, 'Phoenix, honey, when do you stop puking?' I'm told it's after a year." Michaels and her partner, Heidi Rhoades, also have a 2-year-old daughter. (EXPRESS)



ABSTINENCE

'Smoke Weed and Become Justin Bieber' Is Actually a Potent Anti-Drug Message

Tommy Chong told TMZ.com he wasn't surprised to find out Justin Bieber is a smoker of pot (allegedly). "I knew he was smoking before he knew it," Chong said. "Because of his music. Because of his dancing. It's not just his looks. It's his talent. And you don't get talent like that by drinking alcohol. The herb, man! The herb!" (EXPRESS)

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

The universal hand signal for "If I open my mouth, I'll just make pot jokes."

Victims

Calling Her One Direction's Yoko Is Mean to Yoko

Taylor Swift and One Direction's Harry Styles' brief relationship has ended, unnamed sources told People.com. The pair went to the British Virgin Islands together for the holidays; Swift left alone, while Styles continued to party. The pair had dated since a taping of "The X-Factor" in November. (EXPRESS)

STEVE MACK/GETTY IMAGES

"My cleavage is magnificent," thought Kim. "What's that buzzing in my ear?"

REAL ESTATE

The Infestation Begins

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West bought an $11 million mansion in Bel Air, Calif., according to TMZ.com. Unnamed sources said the 10,000-square-foot home, in a gated community, was purchased a few weeks ago and has already been gutted in preparation for a renovation. The new home will be an Italian-style villa, says TMZ, and includes gyms, a makeup and hair salon, a bowling alley and a basketball court, among other amenities. A wedding date is unknown; Kardashian is still married to Kris Humphries. (EXPRESS)

IRRELEVANT

Who Asked You? Oh. Us Weekly Did.

Tate Donovan, who dated Jennifer Aniston years ago (they broke up in 1998), says he's thrilled she's engaged to Justin Theroux. "I am very happy for her. I hope it lasts and that they have a great time. And I'm sure they will. They seem like a very happy couple." He continued: "He's a really smart, very good guy." (EXPRESS)

"When my water broke, I thought it would be like [gushing water sound effect]. But I was just, like, peeing my pants every two seconds."

—**NICOLE "SNOOKI" POLIZZI** TOLD JAY LENO ABOUT HER 27-HOUR-LONG LABOR. "BUT I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING BECAUSE I GOT THE EPIDURAL."

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